

"But you gave them to others and I listened to them," rejoined the boy, emboldened by the kindness of his master.

"And you have done better than listen; you have profited by them," exclaimed Murillo, unable longer to conceal his admiration. "Gentlemen, does this boy merit punishment or reward?"

"At the word punishment, Sebastian's heart beat quick; the word reward gave him a little courage, but fearing that his ears deceived him, he looked with timid and imploring eyes towards his master.

"A reward, senor, cried the pupils in a breath.

"That is well; but what shall it be?"

Sebastian began to breathe.

"Ten ducats, at least," said Mendez.

"Fifteen," cried Ferdinand.

"No," said Gonzalo, "a beautiful new dress for the next holiday."

"Speak, Sebastian," said Murillo, looking at his slave, whom none of these rewards seemed to move, "are these things not to your taste? Tell me what you wish for; I am so much pleased with your beautiful composition, that I will grant any request you may make. Speak, then; do not be afraid.

"Oh, master, if I dared—" and Sebastian, clasping his hands looked upwards to his master, and trembled with the agony of suspense.

"That you might be free" answered, Murillo.

"Rather" said the slave in giving expression in a moment to the concentrated feeling of months "Rather, that my father may be free."

It was enough, and Murillo overpowered by the strong attachment of the boy for his father, in a few moments signed the article for the release of both.

## LARGE SHIPS OF ANCIENT TIMES.

BY PROFESSOR TENNANT.

Spacious and superb as are our modern steam-vessels, and justly boastful as we are of their many conveniences and luxuries, they are perhaps rivalled, if not surpassed, to judge from description, both in splendour of furnishings and magnitude of dimensions, by the vessels constructed by the ancient kings of Egypt and Sicily. We shall give a short account of two of these vessels, as handed down to us by an ancient Greek writer; though we shall not be surprised to learn that the description is received with some degree of incredulity.

The first we shall notice was one built by Ptolemæus Philopater, four hundred and twenty feet long, fifty-six broad, seventy-two feet high from the keel to the top of the prow, and eighty feet high to the top of the poop. She had four helms of sixty feet; her longest oars were fifty-six feet long, with leaden handles, fashioned so as to be worked more easily by the rowers. She had two prows, two sterns, seven rostra or beaks, successively rising and swelling out, one over the other, the topmost being peculiarly stately and prominent. On the poop and prow she had figures of animals not less than eighteen feet high. The interior of the vessel was beautified with a delicate sort of painting of a waxy colour. She had, as her equipage, four thousand rowers, four hundred cabin-boys or servants, and two thousand eight hundred and twenty marines, to do duty on the decks.

The same prince built another ship, called the *Thalamegos*, or *bed-chamber ship*, which was only used as a pleasure-yacht for sailing up and down the Nile. She was not just so long or broad as the preceding, but was much more sumptuous in her chambers and their decorations. She was about three hundred and twenty feet long, and forty-five broad; her height, including that of the pavillion on her deck, was ninety feet; her structure was adapted to the shallow waters of the Nile, being flat-bottomed and broad below. In her upper part, she was lofty, roomy, and sublime. The parts about the stern were prominent, richly varied, and beautiful. She had two prows and as many sterns, both of which extremities were raised to a considerable elevation, the better to withstand the impetuous flow of the river. In the middle of the vessel were the dining-rooms and bed-chambers, with all other needful conveniences, solaces, and luxuries of high life ashore. All around the two sides and stern were double walks or galleries, one above the other, so that the whole ambulatory circuit was not less than five acres. The form of the lower walk was a peristyle or piazza; the higher was fenced in, covered, and diversified with windows. The first walk had its entry beside the poop; and in that part of it which was opposite to the prow, was a vestibule formed of ivory and other precious materials. Adjoining to these galleries was the Great Dining-Hall or grand cabin of the ship, surmounted with columns, and containing reclining couches for dinner. The greater part of this room was finely wainscotted with cedar and cypress-tree of Miletus. The twenty doors entering into it were panelled with wood of the thuya-tree, and decorated with ivory. The hinges, rings, bolts, and other furnishings of these doors, were of brass, burnished so as to resemble gold. The shafts of the columns were of the cypress-tree. The capitals were of fine Corinthian workmanship, embellished with ivory and gold. The epistyle, or beams conjoining pillar with pillar, were all of gold, or gilt; upon them was a freeze-

work, having little animals embossed, greater than a cubit in size, of ordinary workmanship, but in material and general effect admirable. Over the grand hall was a roof of cypress-wood, of quadrangular form, with gilt ornaments.

Adjoining the dining-room was a bed-chamber containing seven beds; divided from which, by a small space, was that part of the ship which was set apart for the ladies, consisting of a dining-room with nine couches, similar in magnificence to the great hall, and of a bed-chamber containing five beds. On ascending the stairs, hard by the aforesaid bed-room, one entered into another hall containing five dinner-couches; it had a turbinated ceiling, and near it was a temple or chapel of Venus, arched in the roof, wherein stood a marble statue of the goddess. Opposite to this was another sumptuous dining-hall, columned all round—the pillars being of fine Indian marble—and attached to it were bed-rooms with furniture like those above specified. Advancing farther towards the prow, one entered into the Grand Hall of Bacchus, likewise having pillars all round, with capitals and epistyle garnished with gold. The roof was like that of the chapel of Venus. In this hall, towards the right hand, there was a grotto, the colour and appearance of which was as if it had been constructed of true stones, all variegated and interspersed as with gold. It contained statues of the king's family, made of Parian marble.

Above all those there was another dining apartment, built on that part of the deck which lay above the roof of the grand hall, having the form of a tent. Over this, and attached to it, purple hangings were expanded, serving, when the ship sailed up the stream, as sails to receive the wind. A small court adjoined this pavilion, from which a winding stair led down to the concealed gallery, and to a dining apartment below, fashioned after the Egyptian mode; its pillars being round, and alternately black and white, with their capitals also round, and decorated with tufts of roses apparently half blown, cups of the river lotus, flowers and fruit of the palm-tree just blown, flowers and twisted leaves of the Egyptian bean, for so the Egyptians decorated their columns. Besides these chambers, there were many others of less size throughout the body and sides of the ship. Her mast was a hundred and five feet high, having a sail made of the finest linen, appended and wrought by ropes of purple. Such was Ptolemy's *Thalamegos*, a ship of which the least that can be said is, that it was worthy of the land of the Pyramids.

Next to Ptolemæus Philopater, in ambitious ship-building, was Hiero, king of Syracuse, a man who delighted in conceiving great designs, who was a lover of magnificence in temples and other public edifices, and possessed a particular taste for naval architecture. He conjoined the useful with the elegant, for he employed his ships as traders for exporting the corn of his highly fertile island to other countries. The magnificent vessel of which we shall now give the description, was designed for a corn-trader, and was built under the eye of the celebrated Archimedes, by a ship builder from Corinth, a city renowned in these times for the superiority of its naval architects. The wood of which the ship was framed was cut down from Mount Etna, and would have sufficed to build sixty large galleys. At the same time that he got ready his timber, he went on also with other preparations, forging bolts, and collecting pitch, hemp, ropes, and yards, from almost all the various ports of Europe. Over the congregated workmen presided Archias, the Corinthian shipwright, subject to the direction of Archimedes, while the king himself controlled all the operations, and by his personal excitations infused zeal into the work. When the vessel was finished, she was drawn down into the sea by means of a powerful piece of mechanism invented by Archimedes. In that ship were twenty banks of oars. Three entrances led into her hull; the lowest, to that space which contained the ballast, descending by many stairs; the second, to the dining apartments: the last, into the spaces allotted for the soldiers or guards of the ship. On each side of the middle entrance were the dining-rooms for the men, thirty in number, each with four dinner-couches. In the division allotted for the sailors was a dining apartment with fifteen couches and three bed-chambers, each with three beds, that near the poop being used as kitchen. The floors of all these various apartments were paved with small square tiles, whereon was depicted the whole story of Homer's *Iliad* with admirable nicety and art. The roof and doors were embellished in like sort. At the highest entrance was a gymnasium, or exercising school, containing gardens marvellously planted with all manner of herbs, to which water was supplied by conduits of lead and tile-work. The walks through this *pleasance* were overshadowed by a complication of ivy and vine branches, the roots of which received nourishment in hogsheads full of earth, that received also their irrigation from the same leaden canals. Near by was situated the Dining-Room of Venus, which had a pavement of agates and other gems, walls and roof of cypress-wood, doors of ivory and thuya-wood; being, moreover, sumptuously furnished with statues, cups, and paintings. Near to this was a *scholasterium* or library, with five couches; its walls and doors being of box, and having the appearance of the nocturnal sky, with the constellations, embossed upon its roof. There was also a *bagnio* with three brazen cauldrons or hot-baths, and a laver of Tauromenian stone, that might hold forty gallons: There were also many cabins and lodges for the marines, mariners, and those who had charge of the *sentina* or sink. And besides all

these, were on each side of the ship ten stalls for horses, with the fodder and apparatus for grooms and horsemen; a tank or water-cistern on the prow made of planks close joined with pitch and linen, and holding about fifteen thousand gallons. Adjoining this was a fish-pond, partly made of lead, partly of wood, full of seawater, wherein fish were fed and preserved. From each side of the vessel, large beams protruded, at moderate distances, which sustained kitchens, ovens, mills, fire-wood, and other culinary conveniences. Figures, called Atlases, nine feet high, and placed at due distances from each other, surrounded the whole circumference of the ship, supporting the highest deck and the triglyph ceiling. The whole was adorned with appropriate paintings. She had eight fortified towers, two on the prow, two on the poop, and the rest in the middle. To each of these towers were attached two large beams or yards with machinery at their ends, by means of which large stones were thrown upon the heads of any hostile force sailing below. Each of these towers accommodated four young men, well armed, and one or two archers. All along the upper deck was built a wall with turrets and bulwarks, on which was erected a balista fabricated by Archimedes for throwing stones. This formidable engine could throw a stone of three hundred pounds, or a weighty javelin eighteen feet long, to the distance of a furlong. The ship had three masts, on each of which were suspended two huge swinging joists for darting stones; down from these also hung hooks, grappling-irons, and masses of lead, which could be thrown upon approaching assailants. There was other machinery of Archimedes's contrivance, by which hostile vessels rashly approaching too near, could be raised up, heaved in the air, and then dropped again into the sea, and destroyed. On each side of the vessel stood sixty men completely armed; an equal number stood on the masts and stone-shooting joists, where they were supplied by boys with baskets full of stones, for the elevation of which there were pulleys and windlasses. The vessel had four anchors of wood, and eight of iron. She had three masts, of which the second and third were easily got at home on Mount Etna or elsewhere; but a tree for the first was long and unsuccessfully searched for, till at last (happy omen for our present maritime supremacy!) one suitable for the purpose was discovered in the forests of Great Britain by a swine-herd! The pump, though of extraordinary depth and dimensions, was plied by one man, who managed it by means of a windlass, the invention of the aforesaid geometrician of Syracuse.

This great vessel was at first designated the *Syracusan*, but after her taking farewell of that city, she changed her address into the *Alexandria*. As lighters or attendant barges, there was attached to her a Cyprus-built barge, impelled by oars only, capable of wafting over sea a large cargo; and many smaller skiffs and fishing-boats, having a compliment of crews nearly equal to that of the large vessel. All offences committed in the population of this crowded ship were submitted to the wisdom of the ship-master, captain, or prow-master, who pronounced sentence according to the laws of Syracuse. The vessel received of corn as her cargo sixty thousand measures, besides vast quantities of flesh, fish, and other articles of provisions. After the vessel was built and rigged out, Hiero, having made enquiry into the depth of water of all the surrounding harbours, and finding that scarcely one had water sufficient to admit his gigantic merchantman, sent her with her cargo as a present to Ptolemy, king of Egypt, to whose subjects, then labouring under a scarcity of corn, she was doubtless a most acceptable gift. She was hauled into the harbour of Alexandria with huzzas of welcome and shouts of acclaim by the admiring Egyptians. Archimedes, an Athenian, and a writer of epigrams, wrote some verses on the superb vessel, which were rewarded by Hiero with a thousand measures of wheat, that were sent at the king's expense to the harbour of Piræus—certainly an enormous gift for such a petty poem, but yet not inappropriate, when we consider the magnificent scale on which every thing connected with the vessel had been calculated.

**CHIROGRAPHY.**—The following account of the hand-writing of men of genius, appeared some time since in an American paper:—It is generally believed that men of genius write in a very obscure, infirm, or eccentric character; such as Byron, Chalmers, Jeffery, and Buonaparte. Washington wrote a fair, open, manly, straight-forward line—every letter legible and distinct; Jefferson's hand writing was bold and masculine; Buonaparte wrote a most unreadable scrawl; Burke's writing was uneven and hurried; Hamilton wrote a light, running hand, sparing of ink; Canning's penmanship has a chaste and classical appearance; Madison writes a fair, firm, upright line, without distinction of hair or body strokes; and not unlike him writes Marshall. The autograph of J. Q. Adams is neat, manly, and perpendicular; Jackson writes rather a clumsy, careless, hand, than otherwise; James Kent's caligraph is perfectly unique, to be compared with nothing besides itself; Brougham writes a hasty hand, but with a good pen and full of ink; Peel writes with a stiff pen, but considerable taste and firmness; Dr. Chalmers writes as if he used the feather end dipped in ink, a real scrawl; W. Irving writes a perfect lawyer's hand, as though he wishes no one could read it but himself; Jeffrey wrote as if he wrote against time, with a stick dipped in ink, nothing so unintelligible; Crabbe's hand-writing is neat and elegant.